

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
November 24, 2014

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Wassmundt

Excused: Kochenburger, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

George Rawitcher, Codfish Falls Road, and his wife Joyce are concerned about the effects of climate change and proposed the formation of a Climate Change Committee. He asked the Council to consider the establishment of this advisory committee. (Proposed committee charge attached).

Margaret Ferron, Gurleyville Road and General Coordinator of the Playground Committee, stated the proposed playground will serve all members of the community and she is pleased to be part of a Town which values this type of project. Ms. Ferron thanked both staff and Council members for their support.

Ellen Tulman, Ball Hill Road, serves on the Playground Committee. She noted that the area will be fenced in and will provide sensory and other opportunities for children. It will be a place for families to enjoy together. Ms. Tulman submitted comments and drawings from her children. (Statements attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, expressed concern regarding recent information on medical claims; stated that there is no need for an additional playground in Town; and supports the application of the Town's Ethic Code to all Board of Education employees.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, reported that the reproduction quality of the last Town Council meeting was poor and that the jury is still out on the success of Storrs Center as there are still unattended consequences which need to be evaluated. Mr. Coleman stated that, in response to projected State deficits, the Town should stop spending money.

Toivo Kask, Agronomy Road and Storrs Road, commented on the collateral damage on homes and residents' quality of life due to construction and other large trucks engine braking as they travel Rte. 195. He asked that "no engine breaking" signs be placed in affected areas.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, agrees that climate change should be studied and warned of a fiscal calamity coming to the Town. Mr. Hossack commented on the Town Manager's proposed raise and the State deficit.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, remarked on the trend, he sees, to limit public comments and posed a number of questions.

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IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written remarks, Mr. Hart reported that, although the Health Insurance Fund has experienced a number of large claims, the fund is still healthy and significantly above the recommended 125% of expected claims.

In response to questions asked during the public comment sections, the Town Manager offered the following comments:

- The Town/School of Fine Arts agreement has recently been executed. Going forward the plan is to request an Attorney General review at an earlier point in the process in order to identify any potential issues
- Any criminal investigation into the Superintendent's travel reimbursements is a Board of Education matter
- As stated previously, the pump station was funded by state and federal grants which were approved by the Town Council
- The Town did not purchase any rifles, the shotguns purchased with grant money are still in the possession of Town.

The Town Manager will keep the Council informed on discussions concerning municipal aid. Mr. Hart also announced the Superintendent of Public Works Mark Kiefer has accepted the Director of Public Works position in Coventry. Mr. Hart wished him the best and thanked him for his work.

The ownership history of the Eagleville School House will be researched.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson noted the passing of longtime resident and outdoor activist Betty Robinson and commented on the impact she left on the community. The Mayor also reported that former town clerk Joan Gerdson is in the hospital and asked people to send positive thoughts her way.

Ms. Wassmundt reminded members of Roberts Rules of Order's regulations regarding interrupting speakers.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

Bids for additional elements including lights and enhancements to the stage pavilion are being solicited.

The second annual Winter Welcome will take place on December 13, 2014.

The lights on Rte. 195 are regulated by the DOT. The Town Manager will bring the expressed concerns regarding the movement of traffic on Rte. 195 to the Traffic Authority and report back to the Council.

2. Community/Campus Relations, UCONN Campus Master Plan

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, to refer the draft UCONN Master Plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Economic Development Commission, the Agriculture Committee, the Open Space Preservation Committee, the Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Traffic Authority, for review and comment with a deadline of reporting back to the Town Council for its January 26, 2015 meeting.

The motion passed with Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan and Wassmundt in favor.

3. Impact Analysis of Next Generation Connecticut Initiative

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective November 24, 2014, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut concerning the Impact Analysis of Next Generation Connecticut Initiative.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective November 24, 2014, to increase the FY2014/15 General Fund Transfer to Capital/CNR by \$25,000, to fund the Town's share of the Impact Analysis of Next Generation Connecticut Initiative.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective November 24, 2014, to amend the Capital Non-recurring Fund and the Capital Improvement Program Fund budgets to establish the Impact Analysis of Next Generation Connecticut Initiative for \$100,000, to be funded by \$25,000 from the Town and \$75,000 from the University of Connecticut.

The motions passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Presentation: Department of Public Works

Director of Public Works John Carrington and Assistant Town Engineer Derek Dilaj outlined departmental tasks, challenges and possible solutions to those challenges.

5. Personal Services Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the State of Connecticut for Community Playground Project

Mr. Marcellino moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:
Resolved, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager of Mansfield, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to construct a community playground (CPAP 2015-03). In addition, that Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

Council members discussed the cost and location of the proposed project.

Ms. Moran raised a point of order during the discussion stating that the question in front of the Council is whether or not to approve the grant and not to authorize the spending of Town funds

Mayor Paterson upheld the point of order.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt.

6. Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Application for Community Playground Project

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, authorizes Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to submit a FY 2015 STEAP grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the Community Playground Project, and, if awarded, to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut to receive such funds on a reimbursement basis.

Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation and Sara Anderson, Parent Education and Early Childhood Coordinator, responded to budget, siting and lease questions.

The motion failed with Marcellino, Moran, Paterson in favor and Kegler, Raymond, Ryan and Wassmundt opposed.

7. Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Application for Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project

Mr. Marcellino moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, authorizes Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to submit a FY 2015 STEAP grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project, and, if awarded, to enter

into an agreement with the State of Connecticut to receive such funds on a reimbursement basis.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Assistance to Firefighters Grant
Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to execute the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application, which purpose is to support the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Mansfield.
The motion passed unanimously.

9. Registrar Compensation for 2015-2016 Term
Ms. Moran, chair of the Personnel Committee, moved effective January 1, 2015, to change the Registrars compensation to \$22.32 per hour and the Deputy Registrars compensation to \$16.74 per hour.
Motion passed unanimously.

10. Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 2001, CSEA, SEIU Professional & Technical Employees
Mr. Kegler recused himself from discussion and voting on this issue.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective November 24, 2014, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Local 2001, CSEA, SEIU – Professional & Technical employees, which agreement shall enter into effect on July 1, 2013 and expire on June 30, 2016.
Motion passed by all voting.

11. Town Manager's Compensation for 2014/2015
Ms. Moran, chair of the Personnel Committee moved, to increase the Town Manager's annual salary by two-percent to an annual salary of \$143,291, retroactive to July 1, 2014, and to endorse the Town Manager's application to ICMA's Senior Executive Institute and to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$5,200 to cover the cost of his participation in the program.

Ms. Wassmundt moved to divide the motion into two separate motions. The motion to divide failed with Kegler, Raymond and Wassmundt in favor and Marcellino, Moran. Paterson opposed.

The original motion passed with Kegler, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond and Ryan voting in favor. Ms. Wassmundt voted in opposition.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

The Quarterly Reports were posted today, therefore this item will appear on the next agenda.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Acting for the Committee on Committees, Mr. Kegler offered the following Committee recommendations:

The appointment of Jennifer Mary Hoskins (representing the Commission on Aging) to the Human Service Advisory Committee

The appointment of Martina Wharton to the Commission on Aging for a term ending 9/1/2018

The reappointment of Lisa Dahn to the Mansfield Advocates for Children for a term ending 10/14/2016

The appointment of Shawn Santasiere (representing the Sustainability Committee) to Connecticut Water Company Advisory Committee.

The motion to approve all recommendations passed unanimously.

X. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. J. Sgro (11/20/14)
13. Community School of the Arts Memorandum of Agreement
14. Mansfield Historical Society Newsletter – November 2014
15. UConn Community Update – Fall 2014
16. Connecticut Water: In Your Community – October 2014

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Members requested that the proposal to form a Climate Change Committee be added to a future agenda and that the membership include representatives from existing pertinent advisory committees.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into executive session to discuss sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D) and to include the Town Manager in the discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D)

Present: Kegler, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, and Wassmundt

Also included: Matt Hart, Town Manager

XIV ADJOURNMENT

The council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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